

# Neoplasia in sawtooth barracuda

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Sawtooth barracuda, *Sphyraena putnamae* is a common species of barracuda in the pelagic fish landings of Maharashtra. In 2015, 166 specimens of *S. putnamae* (301-857 mm Standard length) were collected from trawl landings at Sassoon Dock, Mumbai and examined as part of routine, specieswise biological studies on commercially important marine fishes landed in Maharashtra for

developing the state's Fishery Management Plans. On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015, a single specimen of *S. putnamae* measuring 685 mm in total length (TL) and weighing 1.2 kg having neoplasia was found among the sampled fishes. There were multiple tumor outgrowths in the mouth, with two on the roof of mouth and one on the inside of the lower jaw (Fig.1). The texture of the oral tumors observed

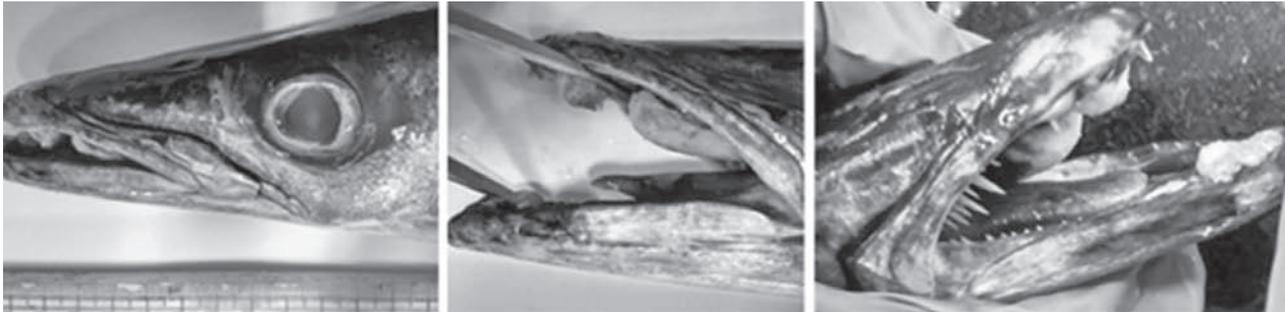


Fig. 1. Tumor outgrowth in the mouth region of *S. putnamae*

was hard and its colour pale. The tumour outgrowths on upper roof region measured 39.18 and 10.41 mm in diameter weighing 4.69 and 1.45 g respectively. The growth on the lower jaw measured 8.28 mm in diameter and 0.65 g in weight. There was no other deformity or endo-tumour observed in the specimen. Stomach had only traces of food, which might have been due to the inability of the fish to consume food due to the tumour outgrowths

on the jaws. Similar type of tumour has been reported in the oil sardine and barracudas such as *S. barracuda* and *S. jello* from south east coast of India (Gopalakrishnan *et al.*, 2011, *Journal of Fish Diseases*, 34: 881-885; Vijayakumar *et al.*, 2014, *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, 108 (1): 53-60). However, this is the first report of neoplasia in *S. putnamae*.